GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2489
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2000
MILITANCY IN J & K
M.V.V.S MURTHI

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a): whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Pak convicts offered road to freedom through Kashmir` appearing in `The Hindustan Times` dated November 12, 2000;

(b): if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; (

(c): the estimated number of criminals/militants at present operating in valley;

(d): the number of jawans of paramilitary forces killed during the last one year and the compensation paid to the families of those jawans; and

(e): the steps taken by the Government to counter the cross border terrorism and prevent infiltration?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a)to(c): Yes sir, Government is aware of the news item. Pakistan and Pakistan sponsored terrorist groups have been continuously attempting to induct foreign mercenaries from across the border/LoC into J&K. such mercenaries have also included criminals, smugglers and ex-servicemen as well as impressionable youth. However it is very difficult to estimate the number of persons with criminal background operating as terrorists in J&K.

(d): 356 S.F. personnel were killed during 1999 whereas during the current year (till Oct.31, 2000) 316 S.F. personnel have lost their lives in militant violence in J&K. Compensation/Exgratia is given as per the fixed norms of Central Government/State Government.

(e): With a view to deal with the cross border terrorism the Government has adopted a multi pronged approach which includes, inter alia, strengthening the border management, neutralising plans of the militants by appropriate action against them in the hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, greater functional framework of Operation Groups and Intelligence Groups at the UHQ and lower levels, improved technology, weapons and equipments for Security Forces, closer vigil on the border, establishment of more naka parties in depth areas to check infiltration/exfiltration, more police pickets, intensive patrolling etc.